

Japan Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo is Japan's capital and largest city. It's also one of the largest cities in the world. **Founded**¹ in 1457, Tokyo has grown into a major part of a **metropolitan**² **region**³ that also includes the cities of Yokohama and Kawasaki. The metropolitan region, also known as Greater Tokyo, has over 30 million residents, which makes it one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world. People can travel at a low cost between Yokohama and Tokyo by taking trains that take about 40 minutes. There are also high-speed trains that can take passengers between Yokohama and Tokyo in half the time but at a greater cost.

Many streets of Tokyo are extremely crowded, and a lot of the buildings are very modern. Walking in Tokyo at night is an amazing experience. Skyscrapers shine brightly with neon signs and video screens. But how could a city founded so long ago look so modern?

During World War II, Japanese military forces attacked a U.S. naval base in Hawaii called Pearl Harbor. Americans sought revenge on Japan. American military forces began bombing Japan's biggest cities. Tokyo was almost entirely destroyed by the bombs. Thousands of people were killed, and over a third of Tokyo's buildings were **demolished**⁴ by fire. Most of Tokyo's buildings were made of paper and wood, so the fire spread quickly.

Tokyo today is a very welcoming metropolis. Tourists roam about the streets, taking in Japanese culture. Hundreds of **shrines**⁵ and temples adorn the city. Shinto and Buddhism are the major religions of Japan. Tourists can also experience Japanese cuisine. There are thousands of restaurants in Tokyo. You can choose from noodle shops, sushi bars, or even McDonald's with special Japan-inspired items found only in Japan.

If you ever have the chance to visit Japan, make sure you stop in Tokyo for at least a few days.

¹ **founded** – started, established

² **metropolitan** – of a large city; belonging to a large city

³ **region** – a place, space, or area

⁴ **demolished** – pulled or torn down

⁵ **shrines** – places where sacred objects are kept

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of these statements is false?

- a. Tokyo is in Japan.
- b. Tokyo is very modern.
- c. Tokyo is Japan's smallest city.
- d. During World War II, Tokyo was almost entirely destroyed by bombs.

2. Read the following sentences: "Tokyo today is a very welcoming metropolis. Tourists roam about the streets, taking in Japanese culture. Hundreds of **shrines** and temples adorn the city."

As used in the text, what does "metropolis" most nearly mean?

- a. town
- b. city
- c. village
- d. street

3. Based on the text, how can the author's opinion of Tokyo best be described?

- a. The author has a very favorable opinion of Tokyo.
- b. The author has a very negative opinion of Tokyo.
- c. The author has both positive and negative opinions of Tokyo.
- d. The author has no opinion of Tokyo.

4. Based on the text, when were most of Tokyo's modern buildings constructed?

- a. during World War II
- b. between World War I and World War II
- c. before World War I
- d. after World War II

5. Which statement does NOT describe a modern feature of Tokyo?

- a. Tokyo's buildings were made of paper and wood.
- b. Skyscrapers shine brightly with neon signs and video screens.
- c. You can choose from noodle shops, sushi bars, or even McDonald's.
- d. High speed trains connect Yokohama and Kawasaki to Tokyo.

6. Based on the text, why is Tokyo so modern? Use information from the text to support your answer.

7. What is a main idea of this text? Explain what information in the text supports this main idea.

8. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

_____ skyscrapers shine brightly with neon signs and video screens, walking in Tokyo at night is an amazing experience.

- a. Although
- b. However
- c. Because
- d. Except

9. Answer the following question based on the sentence below.

With over 30 million residents, Greater Tokyo is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world.

In the sentence, the phrase Greater Tokyo best answers which question?

- a. Who?
- b. How?
- c. What?
- d. Why?

10. **Vocabulary Word:** demolished: pulled or torn down.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 850

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage describes the modern city of Tokyo, Japan, including information about its population, the destruction of its buildings in World War II, and the types of culture and modern architecture that visitors can find there today.

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- d. after World War II**

5. Which statement does NOT describe a modern feature of Tokyo?

- a. **Tokyo's buildings were made of paper and wood.**
- b. Skyscrapers shine brightly with neon signs and video screens.
- c. You can choose from noodle shops, sushi bars, or even McDonald's.
- d. High speed trains connect Yokohama and Kawasaki to Tokyo.

6. Based on the text, why is Tokyo so modern? Use information from the text to support your answer.

Suggested answer: According to the passage, during World War II, American military forces bombed Tokyo. Over a third of Tokyo's buildings were destroyed by fire because they were made of paper and wood. So after the war was over, they had to rebuild the city.

7. What is a main idea of this text? Explain what information in the text supports this main idea.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. For example, students may note that a main idea of the text is that Tokyo is a modern, bustling city. They may cite information from the text about the city's culture and modernity to support the main idea identified.

8. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

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Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.